

# WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

## MINUTES

September 19, 2017

Members Present: Noreen Bachteler, Ray Guenter, Robert Kennedy, Ruth Kurien, Ellen Phillips, Donna Sterling, Philip Walker  
Members Absent: Rosemary Cleary, Linda Hanson  
Staff Present: Gina Marino, Keren Paquette  
Guests: Astrid Calderón, Sheila Diamond, Kevin Farmer, Bruno Venero, Charles Woolsey

Chairman Philip Walker called the meeting to order at 10:01AM.

The Minutes of the May 16, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

### ***Chairman's Report***

Phil Walker had hoped to have Senator Beth Bye at the meeting. Hopefully, she can come in the near future. Pramod Praphan from the Faxon Library will be scheduled soon. Phil welcomed Astrid Calderón, the new Social Services Manager, and Intern Bruno Venero,

### ***Social Services Department***

Astrid Calderón gave the report. There have been recent hires in the department for the CDBG grant and for child and adolescence programs. There is a frozen position for a part-time social worker. Staffing changes have been absorbed. The Rental Rebate program ends 9/29 and Energy Assistance has started. Bruno Venero will be working with Keren Paquette for the coming year and will focus on services to the elderly. Much change is expected with the funding for state programs; however, applications will be taken. There are other funds that can help if the funding is cut. While Keren does visit each senior center, not many appointments are scheduled.

### ***Transportation***

Kevin Farmer reported that rider volume is up 20%. For the first time, there is a surplus in the budget. He, a driver and a rider have participated in a taping for the community conversations program with the West Hartford public schools. The result will be on the website and in a coffee table book. 14,000 rides have been given during the life of ITN Central. Currently, there are 27 drivers.

### ***Town Council***

Mayor Shari Cantor suggested that the Commission invite the new Town Manager Matt Hall to a future meeting. The Town budget continues to be a moving target with major cuts anticipated. There is a shift in the vehicle mil rate that will affect the real estate rate. There are expected ripple effects from Hartford's financial problems. The UConn property purchase has not been finalized because of DEP issues. New housing at 616 New Park has received a zoning change and is under the auspices of the West Hartford Housing Authority. It includes Workforce and veterans' units and 20% market units.

### ***Seniors Job Bank***

Sheila Diamond reported that there are now 550 people in the database who are looking for work. In May the job requests were up 50% over the previous year. The Business program has placed a number of people. A part-time office assistant will be added to staff. The organization is embarking on the development of a strategic plan.

***Senior Centers***

Reports are attached.

***New Business***

There were suggestions for future presenters: the Pickle Ball group, Helen Rubino-Turco for a Parks update, and Kristen Gorski the Economic Development Specialist.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 10:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Lynn Silverman  
Volunteer Recording Secretary